

VICTIM JUSTICE SECTION

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN VERTICAL PROSECUTION PROGRAM

Program Description

This program provides funding to California District Attorneys Offices to create or enhance specialized units to reduce the threat of victimization related to the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and dating violence through early arrest, prosecution, and sentencing of perpetrators charged with this crime. The crime of stalking, as defined by California Penal Code Section 646.9 does not require the suspect to have actual physical contact with the victim. Rather, those charged with the offense engage in a pattern of conduct intended to follow, alarm, and harass the victim causing reasonable fear in the victims or their immediate family. Vertical prosecution has shown to: improve conviction rates; reduce victim trauma; and, provide more consistent and appropriate sentencing.

Eligibility

California City and County District Attorneys Offices

Fund Source and Amount

Federal STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, - \$2,010,689

Authorized By

Federal Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law No: 109-162)/California State Legislature

Grant Award Period

July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Next Competitive/Non Competitive Application Due Date

April 1, 2009 - Competitive

Additional Program Information

OES merged the Threat Management Program that focused on Stalking vertical prosecution into the VAWA Vertical Prosecution Program. There are four mandatory objectives for the projects funded under this program: increase prosecution and conviction rates of violent crimes against women as measured by the total number of cases projected to be assigned/accepted by the unit; achieve vertical prosecution standards as measured by the number of cases to be prosecuted in each of the categories: True, Major Stage, and Unit; reduce specialized caseloads by a minimum of 1/3 (excluding warrant cases) as measured by the comparison to the non-unit caseloads; and ensure minimization of trauma to victims of specified crimes as measured in advocate employee direct services or referrals to local victim service agencies.

How Do I Get More Information

This program is administered by the Victim Justice Section of the Victim and Children's Branch of the Law Enforcement and Victim Services Division of OES at 916-324-9120.